In the claims:

1-54. (canceled).

55. (currently amended) A tactical defense device for dispersing a chemical from a pressurized spray cartridge, comprising:

a dispenser adapted to receive the pressurized spray cartridge;

the dispenser having a first end defining a forward portion and an opposite second end;

the forward portion having a discharge orifice for dispersing the chemical through the discharge orifice in a generally axial direction relative to a longitudinal axis of the dispenser;

an actuator for movement in a generally axial direction relative to the longitudinal axis, between a normally inactivated position and an activated position for dispersing the chemical;

an expandable baton portion adapted for connection to the second end;

a cap accessible on a side surface of the dispenser;

the cap movable between first and second positions;

wherein, in the first position, the cap may be depressed in a generally radial direction relative to the longitudinal axis mechanically causing the actuator movement, with ~~the~~ movement of the cap between the first and second positions being in a direction that is different than the generally radial direction;

wherein depression of the cap is prevented when the cap is in the second position; and

wherein the device is generally cylindrical about the longitudinal axis.

56. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, the cap being slidingly movable between the first and second positions in a generally axial direction relative to the longitudinal axis.

57. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

an actuator button;

the cap overlying the actuator button when the cap is in the first position, with depression of the cap mechanically causing depression of the actuator button and the actuator movement.

58. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

an actuator button;

the cap overlying the actuator button when the cap is in the first position, with depression of the cap mechanically causing depression of the actuator button and the actuator movement;

a guide pin for guiding movement of the actuator button;

a spring about the guide pin for biasing against depression of the actuator button.

59. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, the cap comprising an upper surface with raised concentric rings for facilitating tactile feedback and control.

60. (currently amended) The tactical defense device of claim 55, ~~wherein~~ the cap being positioned, on the side surface of the dispenser, to permit operation ~~can be operated~~ by a user's thumb of one hand while said hand is gripping the device in a generally horizontal orientation, with said hand raised and said thumb generally facing the user.

61. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55,

the cap comprising a depending retainer leg;

the retainer leg limiting the direction of the movement of the cap between the first and second positions.

62. (currently amended) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

an actuator button;

the cap overlying the actuator button when the cap is in the first position, with depression of the cap mechanically causing depression of the actuator button and the actuator movement;

the cap comprising a depending retainer leg;

the actuator button comprising a slot, adapted to slidingly receive the retainer leg to enable sliding movement of the cap between the first and second positions.

63. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

an actuator button;

the cap overlying the actuator button when the cap is in the first position, with depression of the cap mechanically causing depression of the actuator button and the actuator movement;

the cap and the actuator button having mutually cooperable channels for releasably retaining the cap in the first position.

64. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion and defining the discharge orifice;

the nozzle plate being interchangeable with any one of a plurality of nozzle plates;

each of the plurality of nozzle plates comprising a visible outer surface, and each of the nozzle plates being distinguishable from the other nozzle plates by an appearance of its visible outer surface;

the appearances of the different nozzle plate outer surfaces respectively designed to conceal or to reveal the chemical dispersing use of the device.

65. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion and defining the discharge orifice;

the nozzle plate comprising a visible outer surface;

the visible outer surface being selected from a group consisting of a surface made of a light-reflective material, a silver color surface, a surface made of a non-reflective material, a dark buff color surface, a black color surface, a surface made of a brightly colored material, and a red color surface.

66. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

an annular retainer in the forward portion;

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion by the annular retainer and defining the discharge orifice.

67. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising:

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion and defining the discharge orifice;

an annular resilient seal member configured to cooperate with an annular surface of the nozzle plate.

68. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, further comprising a slidingly insertable sleeve for holding the pressurized spray cartridge.

69. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, wherein the dispenser has an annular cover sleeve formed thereon.

70. (currently amended) The tactical defense device of claim 69, wherein the annular cover sleeve is formed of a ~~foam~~ material that enhances gripping of the dispenser.

71. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, wherein the discharge orifice is in axial alignment with a discharge nozzle of the pressurized spray cartridge.

72. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, the dispenser comprising:

a tubular body for receiving the pressurized spray cartridge; and

a coupling connector coupled to the tubular body;

the coupling connector comprising the second end of the dispenser;

the coupling connector comprising the cap.

73. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 55, the expandable baton portion comprising telescoping sections.

74. (canceled).

75. (currently amended) A tactical defense device for dispersing a chemical from a pressurized spray cartridge, comprising:

a slidingly insertable sleeve for holding the pressurized spray cartridge;

a dispenser adapted to receive the ~~pressurized spray cartridge~~ slidingly insertable sleeve;

the dispenser having a first end defining a forward portion and an opposite second end;

the forward portion having a discharge orifice for dispersing the chemical through the discharge orifice in a generally axial direction relative to a longitudinal axis of the dispenser;

an actuator for movement in a generally axial direction relative to the longitudinal axis, between a normally inactivated position and an activated position for dispersing the chemical;

an actuator button for mechanically moving the actuator;

the second end adapted for separate interchangeable connection with each one of (a) an end cap and (b) an expandable baton portion;

the baton portion structured and dimensioned for the connected baton portion and dispenser to form a combined body for use of the device both as a dispensing apparatus for dispersion of the chemical from the pressurized spray cartridge and as an expandable baton;

the combined body being generally cylindrical about the longitudinal axis;

the end cap structured and dimensioned for closing the second end of the dispenser for use of the device only as a dispensing apparatus for dispersion of the chemical from the pressurized spray cartridge.

76. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, the actuator button being operable from a side surface of the dispenser between the first and second ends of the dispenser.

77. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, the actuator movement being caused by depression of the actuator button in a generally radial direction relative to the longitudinal axis.

78. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 77, further comprising:

a guide pin for guiding movement of the actuator button;

a spring about the guide pin for biasing against depression of the actuator button.

79. (currently amended) The tactical defense device of claim 75, ~~wherein~~ the actuator button being positioned to permit operation ~~can be operated~~ by a user's thumb of one hand while said hand is gripping the device in a generally horizontal orientation, with said hand raised and said thumb generally facing the user.

80. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, further comprising:

a cap accessible on a side surface of the dispenser;

the cap slidingly movable between first and second positions in a generally axial direction relative to the longitudinal axis;

the cap overlying the actuator button when the cap is in the first position, with depression of the cap mechanically causing depression of the actuator button and the actuator movement;

wherein depression of the cap is prevented when the cap is in the second position.

81. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, further comprising:

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion and defining the discharge orifice;

the nozzle plate being interchangeable with any one of a plurality of nozzle plates;

each of the plurality of nozzle plates comprising a visible outer surface, and each of the nozzle plates being distinguishable from the other nozzle plates by an appearance of its visible outer surface;

the appearances of the different nozzle plate outer surfaces respectively designed to conceal or to reveal the chemical dispersing use of the device.

82. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, further comprising:

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion and defining the discharge orifice;

the nozzle plate comprising a visible outer surface;

the visible outer surface being selected from a group consisting of a surface made of a light-reflective material, a silver color surface, a surface made of a non-reflective material, a dark buff color surface, a black color surface, a surface made of a brightly colored material, and a red color surface.

83. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75 wherein the forward portion is enlarged.

84. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, further comprising:

an annular retainer in the forward portion;

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion by the annular retainer and defining the discharge orifice.

85. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, further comprising:

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion and defining the discharge orifice;

an annular resilient seal member configured to cooperate with an annular surface of the nozzle plate.

86. (currently amended) The tactical defense device of claim [[75]] 91, further comprising a slidingly insertable sleeve for holding the pressurized spray cartridge.

87. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, wherein the dispenser has an annular cover sleeve formed thereon.

88. (currently amended) The tactical defense device of claim 87, wherein the annular cover sleeve is formed of a ~~foam~~ material that enhances gripping of the dispenser.

89. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, wherein the discharge orifice is in axial alignment with a discharge nozzle of the pressurized spray cartridge.

90. (previouslly presented) The tactical defense device of claim 75, the dispenser comprising:

a tubular body for receiving the pressurized spray cartridge; and

a coupling connector coupled to the tubular body;

the coupling connector comprising the second end of the dispenser;

the coupling connector comprising the actuator button.

91. (new) A tactical defense device for dispersing a chemical from a pressurized spray cartridge, comprising:

a dispenser adapted to receive the pressurized spray cartridge;

the dispenser having a first end defining a forward portion and an opposite second end;

the forward portion having a discharge orifice for dispersing the chemical through the discharge orifice in a generally axial direction relative to a longitudinal axis of the dispenser;

a nozzle plate supported within the forward portion and defining the discharge orifice;

the nozzle plate being interchangeable with any one of a plurality of nozzle plates;

each of the plurality of nozzle plates comprising a visible outer surface, and each of the nozzle plates being distinguishable from the other nozzle plates by an appearance of its visible outer surface;

the appearances of the different nozzle plate outer surfaces designed respectively to conceal or to reveal the chemical dispersing use of the device;

an actuator for movement in a generally axial direction relative to the longitudinal axis, between a normally inactivated position and an activated position for dispersing the chemical;

an expandable baton portion adapted for connection to the second end;

wherein the device is generally cylindrical about the longitudinal axis.

92. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 91, further comprising:

a cap accessible on a side surface of the dispenser;

the cap movable between first and second positions;

wherein, in the first position, the cap may be depressed in a generally radial direction relative to the longitudinal axis mechanically causing the actuator movement, with movement of the cap between the first and second positions being in a direction that is different than the generally radial direction;

wherein depression of the cap is prevented when the cap is in the second position.

93. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 92, further comprising:

an actuator button;

the cap overlying the actuator button when the cap is in the first position, with depression of the cap mechanically causing depression of the actuator button and the actuator movement.

94. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 92, the cap being positioned, on the side surface of the dispenser, to permit operation by a user's thumb of one hand while said hand is gripping the device in a generally horizontal orientation, with said hand raised and said thumb generally facing the user.

95. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 92, the dispenser comprising:

a tubular body for receiving the pressurized spray cartridge; and

a coupling connector coupled to the tubular body;

the coupling connector comprising the second end of the dispenser;

the coupling connector comprising the cap.

96. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 91, wherein the dispenser has an annular cover sleeve formed thereon.

97. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 96, wherein the annular cover sleeve is formed of a material that enhances gripping of the dispenser.

98. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 91, wherein the discharge orifice is in axial alignment with a discharge nozzle of the pressurized spray cartridge.

99. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 91, the visible outer surface being selected from a group consisting of a surface made of a light-reflective material, a silver color surface, a surface made of a non-reflective material, a dark buff color surface, a black color surface, a surface made of a brightly colored material, and a red color surface.

100. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 91 wherein the forward portion is enlarged.

101. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 91, further comprising:

an annular retainer in the forward portion;

the nozzle plate supported within the forward portion by the annular retainer.

102. (new) The tactical defense device of claim 91, further comprising an annular resilient seal member configured to cooperate with an annular surface of the nozzle plate.